

SPECIAL MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
August 6, 2007

Mayor Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Community Room of the Community Center.

I. ROLL CALL

- Present: Blair, Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer

II. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Discussion of Mansfield Charter Revision Commission Report

Mayor Paterson explained the options available to the Council. The Charter Revision Commission's recommendations can be either accepted or rejected in total or in part.

Dennis O'Brien, the Town Attorney, reiterated that the Council must act on the Commission's report tonight but that the ballot questions do not need to be approved until September 6, 2007. He suggested that he and the Town Clerk be charged with drafting ballot questions for the next meeting.

Mr. Haddad commented that in Section 202 B.(1) of the draft there is an obvious error. The "two(2)" regarding the terms of alternate members of the Planning and Zoning Commission should have been removed. The proposed term for this office is four (4) years. By consensus it was agreed that this was an error that could be corrected.

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Koehn seconded to approve the resolution suggested by the Town Attorney with changes. The revised resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town Council, pursuant to Chapter 99 of the Connecticut General Statutes, voted on March 27, 2006 to establish and appoint a Charter Revision Commission of the Town of Mansfield to review and consider amendments to the Charter of the Town of Mansfield; and

WHEREAS, beginning with its first public hearing duly held on May 18, 2006, and ending with the submission of its Final Report to the Town Council on July 26, 2007, along with the Town Council, the Charter Revision Commission has dutifully fulfilled its legal responsibilities required by Chapter 99 of the Connecticut General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Chapter of the Connecticut General Statutes, it is the legal responsibility of the Town Council of the Town of Mansfield to determine whether to approve the proposed Charter amendments set forth in said Final Report in whole or in part within fifteen days of its submission to the Town

Council, and to consider whether, when and how to submit said results to the electors of the Town of Mansfield for approval or rejection:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

In fulfillment of its legal duty set forth in Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-191(d) and (e), the Town Council does hereby:

- a. Approve in their entirety for submission to the electors of the Town of Mansfield, by a majority vote of its entire membership, the proposed Charter amendments to set forth in the Final Report of the Charter Revision Commission dated July 24, 2007, and submitted to the Town Council on July 26, 2007; and
- b. Direct that such proposed Charter amendments be duly submitted to the electors of the Town of Mansfield for approval or rejection by said electors at the regular election be held on November 6, 2007.

Motion to approve the resolution passed unanimously.

Members discussed the options for the wording of the questions on the ballot. All agreed that care must be taken to assure the resulting document remains cohesive. Mayor Paterson reminded members that an explanatory text may be provided to the public prior to voting. This document, approved by the Town Attorney, must be neutral and factual, but it could serve as a useful education tool. Member discussed the advisability of framing the questions around the controversial issues of the proposed charter or keeping the questions general.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded that the Town Attorney and the Town Clerk be directed to compose draft wording for no more than four ballot questions for the November election.

Motion passed unanimously.

The Town Council again thanked the Charter Revision Commission for their work.

III. Adjournment

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to adjourn the special meeting at 7:45 P.M.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk